

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16033 101632Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 101628Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4122
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16033

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IT, UR
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF NEW ITALIAN PRESIDENT

1. NEW ITALIAN PRESIDENT PERTINI IS BEING PRESENTED
IN SYMPATHETIC LIGHT IN INITIAL SOVIET REPORTING ON
THE ELECTION. PRAVDA'S ROME CORRESPONDENT (ZAFESOV)
JULY 9 DESCRIBES PERTINI AS THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE
OF A LEFT PARTY TO BE ELECTED PRESIDENT IN THE
HISTORY OF THE REPUBLIC. (ITALIAN EMBOFF NOTES TO
US IN PASSING THAT SOVIETS ARE IGNORING THE FACT THAT
PRESIDENT SARAGAT WAS A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT). IN A BRIEF
ACCOUNT OF THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, ZAFESOV
CONCLUDES HIS JULY 10 REPORT WITH THE STATEMENT THAT
"COMMON SENSE, A REALISTIC ATTITUDE AND JOINT ACTION
OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES HAVE GAINED THE UPPER HAND
BUT THERE STILL REMAINS MUCH TO DO TO DEFEND THE
REPUBLICAN SYSTEM FROM ATTACKS OF REACTION". A
SOVIET CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE HAS NOT YET BEEN
PUBLISHED.

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2. IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION JULY 10, ITALIAN EMBOFF
WAS RELUCTANT TO SAY RECENT ITALIAN POLITICAL UN-
CERTAINTY HAD ADVERSELY AFFECTED PLANS FOR VISITS
OR OTHER BILATERAL ACTIVITY WITH THE SOVIETS. AT THE
SAME TIME HE THOUGHT A GROMYKO VISIT TO ROME MIGHT
NOW MATERIALIZE IN THE EARLY FALL ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC

PLANNING HAS YET BEEN UNDERTAKEN. A VISIT HAD BEEN
SCHEDULED IN LATE MARCH BUT WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF
THE POLITICAL SITUATION. MATLOCK

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